



WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Office of Economic Advisors

FOR WESTERN WISCONSIN COUNTIES

BUFFALO, CRAWFORD, JACKSON, JUNEAU, LA CROSSE, MONROE, TREMPLEAU, & VERNON

February 2004

As Typical for the season, Wintertime Unemployment Rates Increase

Few individuals were surprised in the increase in the January unadjusted unemployment rate in **Western Wisconsin**. The unadjusted unemployment rate rose from 4.8 percent in December to six percent in December. The increase of 1.2 percentage points is somewhat typical for the season. Despite the latest increase, the January Western Wisconsin rate remained well below the 7.1 percent recorded in January 2003.

January's statewide unadjusted rate increased to six percent from 4.9 percent in November. Nationally,

ber led by seasonal declines in construction and trade employment. Unemployment rates in 68 of Wisconsin's 72 counties were lower in January 2004 as compared to January 2003.

Compared with twelve months ago there are 2,200 jobs in the region. Five out of eight Western Wisconsin counties increased their total employment as compared to last January. Industries leading the increase included health services and transportation.

The January seasonally adjusted un-

The La Crosse **Metropolitan Area** joins the ten other metropolitan areas in Wisconsin reporting decreases in their seasonally adjusted employment rates. All 11 Wisconsin metropolitan areas had lower seasonally adjusted rates in January 2004 than they had experienced last month. In addition, all 11 metropolitan areas had lower seasonal rates than recorded in January 2003.

Seasonally adjusted, the State of Wisconsin unemployment rate in January was five percent while the national rate was 5.6 percent.

Assistance sought from multiple worksite employers

Employers with operations in multiple locations (work sites) in Wisconsin are requested to complete a Multiple Worksite Report (MWR), PLEASE. Only affected employers are contacted and asked to complete the MWR during the first calendar quarter. All individual responses are kept confidential but collectively this valuable information is used: by business planners in economic development, forecasting, and wage analysis; by legislators in allocating dollars; and by individuals in making career decisions.

Labor Force Estimates (Seasonally Adjusted)			
	La Crosse MSA	Wisconsin (000s)	United States (000s)
Current month: January 2004			
Civilian Labor Force	76,300	3,115.0	146,863
Employment	73,300	2,958.5	138,566
Unemployment	3,000	156.4	8,297
Unemployment rate	4.0%	5.0%	5.6%
Change from one month ago			
Civilian Labor Force	200	29.6	(15)
Employment	500	40.3	87
Unemployment	-400	-10.8	(101)
Unemployment rate	-0.4%	-0.4%	-0.1%
Change from one year ago			
Civilian Labor Force	2,600	62.3	988
Employment	2,900	81.6	1,119
Unemployment	-300	-19.4	(131)
Unemployment rate	-0.4%	-0.8%	-0.2%

Note: All estimates are preliminary and based on place of residence.
* La Crosse MSA Statistics include Houston County Minnesota

the unadjusted unemployment rate increased in January to 6.3 percent from 5.4 percent in November.

The unemployment rate rose in each of the eight counties in the region in January but all eight counties had lower unemployment rates than last January. The counties in **Western Wisconsin** followed a pattern statewide where unemployment rates increased from Decem-

employment rate for the **La Crosse Metropolitan Area** was four percent, 0.4 percentage points lower as compared to both December's revised reading of 4.4 percent and last January's reading of 4.4 percent. The January 2004 La Crosse **Metropolitan Area** seasonal unemployment rate ranked 77th lowest out of the nation's 331 metropolitan statistical areas.

The department thanks the 3,300 employers who currently participate by reporting employment at over 25,000 work sites. For more information contact **Deb Holt** at **608.266.5321**

Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Area

January 2004	Buffalo	Crawford	Jackson	Juneau	Lacrosse	Monroe	Trempealeau	Vernon	Region	Non MSA*	Wisconsin
Civilian Labor Force**	7,950	10,270	11,940	10,860	63,920	22,190	15,410	14,920	157,470	93,540	3,086,000
Employed	7,430	9,560	11,220	9,680	60,930	20,990	14,190	13,960	147,950	87,020	2,902,340
Unemployed	520	720	720	1,190	3,000	1,200	1,220	960	9,520	6,520	183,670
Unemployment Rate	6.5%	7.0%	6.0%	10.9%	4.7%	5.4%	7.9%	6.4%	6.0%	7.0%	6.0%
Total Nonfarm (NFWS) ***	5,000	7,400	8,000	8,500	66,700	18,400	12,100	8,300	134,400	67,700	2,741,100
Total Private	4,200	6,200	5,100	6,300	58,400	14,100	10,000	6,100	110,400	52,000	2,340,600
Goods Producing	400	1,700	1,500	2,300	11,300	3,900	4,800	1,100	26,900	15,600	613,600
Service Producing	4,600	5,700	6,500	6,200	55,400	14,500	7,300	7,200	107,500	52,100	2,127,500
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	150	200	630	230	2,300	440	160	210	4,300	2,000	116,100
Manufacturing	300	1,500	900	2,100	9,100	3,400	4,600	900	22,600	13,600	497,500
Trade	500	2,000	900	1,100	11,500	2,600	1,400	1,700	21,500	10,000	439,700
Transportation & Utilities	1,900	200	700	300	2,100	1,800	500	300	7,900	5,800	327,100
Financial Activities	150	180	240	240	3,300	560	470	360	5,500	2,200	159,800
Education and Health Services	500	1,000	700	1,100	13,200	1,600	1,200	1,500	20,800	7,600	371,700
Leisure & Hospitality	400	700	800	700	6,700	1,500	700	600	11,900	5,200	233,500
Info., Prof. & Bus. Svcs, Other Svcs	300	500	300	600	10,300	2,200	1,100	600	15,800	5,600	417,900
Total Government	890	1,160	2,920	2,210	8,280	4,260	2,130	2,190	24,000	15,800	400,500
Federal	150	70	50	260	540	2,040	120	120	3,360	2,820	29,500
State	20	190	410	590	1,710	230	30	30	3,200	1,490	95,300
Local	720	900	2,460	1,360	6,030	1,990	1,980	2,040	17,480	11,450	275,700
Change from one month ago	December 2003										
Civilian Labor Force**	210	-180	40	320	-200	440	240	120	1,000	1,200	20,900
Employed	130	-370	-120	20	-800	270	-10	-70	-1,000	-100	-13,000
Unemployed	90	190	160	290	600	180	240	190	1,900	1,300	33,800
Unemployment rate(%)	0.9	2.0	1.3	2.4	0.9	0.7	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.1
Total Nonfarm (NFWS) ***	-110	-500	-290	-180	-2,200	-180	-310	-270	-4,100	-1,800	-52,800
Percent change NFWS from last moni	-2.2%	-6.4%	-3.5%	-2.1%	-3.2%	-1.0%	-2.5%	-3.1%	-2.9%	-2.7%	-1.9%
Total Private	-90	-480	-300	-100	-1,100	-100	-270	-140	-2,600	-1,500	-35,400
Goods Producing	-20	-30	-100	-100	-200	0	-190	-50	-700	-500	-13,300
Service Producing	-100	-470	-200	-100	-2,000	-200	-120	-220	-3,400	-1,300	-39,500
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	-10	-30	-130	-50	-200	-70	-50	-40	-600	-400	-9,400
Manufacturing	0	0	0	0	0	50	-140	-10	-100	-100	-3,900
Trade	-10	-420	0	0	-500	-140	-20	10	-1,100	-600	-6,900
Transportation & Utilities	-30	0	-30	0	0	0	-60	0	-100	-100	-6,400
Financial Activities	0	0	0	0	0	-10	30	-10	0	0	-300
Education and Health Services	-20	-20	0	0	-100	-30	10	-10	-200	-100	-2,200
Leisure & Hospitality	-10	-10	-10	0	-100	-20	-20	-30	-200	-100	-3,500
Svcs	10	-10	-90	0	-200	110	-10	-50	-200	0	-5,400
Total Government	-20	-20	-30	-30	-1,170	-70	-40	-130	-1,500	-300	-17,400
Federal	0	0	0	0	0	-20	0	0	0	0	-700
State	0	-10	-10	10	-810	0	0	0	-800	0	-5,400
Local	-30	0	-20	-40	-360	-50	-40	-130	-700	-300	-11,300
Change from one year ago	January 2003										
Civilian Labor Force**	210	190	240	150	2,200	1,010	300	510	4,800	2,600	60,200
Employed	200	270	390	260	2,600	1,330	460	630	6,100	3,500	78,700
Unemployed	10	-80	-150	-110	-400	-320	-160	-120	-1,300	-900	-18,500
Unemployment rate(%)	-0.1	-0.9	-1.4	-1.2	-0.7	-1.8	-1.2	-1.1	-1.1	-1.2	-0.7
Total Nonfarm (NFWS) ***	50	-30	40	-20	1,400	670	-10	70	2,200	800	30,600
Percent change NFWS from last year	1.0%	-0.5%	0.5%	-0.3%	2.2%	3.8%	-0.1%	0.9%	1.6%	1.1%	1.1%
Total Private	70	-30	0	0	1,400	700	0	100	2,200	800	34,400
Goods Producing	10	-30	100	-100	500	0	-200	0	200	-300	-7,500
Service Producing	40	-10	0	0	900	700	200	100	2,000	1,000	38,100
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	20	10	20	10	100	-10	0	10	200	100	4,300
Manufacturing	-10	-40	0	-100	400	-20	-210	0	100	-300	-11,800
Trade	0	50	0	0	-300	250	10	70	100	400	14,200
Transportation & Utilities	50	0	0	10	100	240	20	0	400	300	12,900
Financial Activities	0	0	0	0	0	-20	70	0	100	100	5,500
Education and Health Services	-30	-50	100	0	1,000	-10	30	40	1,000	100	11,900
Leisure & Hospitality	30	20	0	0	300	0	0	-20	300	0	7,900
Svcs	10	-20	-100	0	-100	300	30	-20	200	300	800
Total Government	-20	-10	10	10	0	-60	40	-20	-100	-100	-3,800
Federal	0	0	0	-10	0	-30	0	10	0	0	-300
State	0	-10	-40	20	-90	-10	0	0	-100	0	2,700
Local	-20	0	50	0	90	-30	40	-30	100	0	-6,200

* Seven counties, excluding La Crosse County

** Includes participants residing in area.

*** Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates above are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding. NFWS data benchmarked to 3/2003

LABOR SURPLUS AREAS

The labor surplus designation is used by federal procurement offices in targeting contracts into areas of high unemployment. The following areas in Wisconsin received designation as labor surplus areas for the period October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2004:

During periods of high national unemployment, the 20 percent ratio is disregarded and an area is classified as a labor surplus area if its unemployment rate during the previous two calendar years was ten percent or more. This ten percent ceiling concept comes into operation whenever the two year average unemployment rate for all states was 8.3 percent or above (*i.e.*, 8.3 percent times the 1.20 ratio equals ten percent). Similarly, a "floor" concept of six percent is used during periods of low national unemployment

for an area to be classified as a labor surplus area. The six percent "floor" comes into effect whenever the average unemployment rate for all states during the two-year reference period was five percent or less.

Authorization for the labor surplus lists falls under Defense Manpower Policy No. 4, Executive Orders 12073 and 10582, and Public Law 96-302. The basic purpose of the program is to guide a portion of the government's procurement dollars into areas of severe economic need, which have been defined as areas of high unemployment. Employers located in an eligible area can receive preference in bidding on federal contracts.

<http://www.uscs.doe.gov/lisa.asp>

Labor Surplus Areas October 01, 2003 Through September 30, 2004 Wisconsin

Eligible Labor Surplus Areas

Ashland County
Bayfield County
Beloit City
Balance Of Chippewa County
Clark County
Florence County
Forest County
Green Bay City
Iron County
Janesville City
Juneau County
Kenosha City
Langlade County
Manitowoc City
Marinette County
Marquette County
Menominee County
Milwaukee City
Oconto County
Polk County
Price County
Racine City
Rusk County
Washburn County

Civil Jurisdictions Included

Ashland County
Bayfield County
Beloit City In Rock County
Chippewa County Less Eau Claire City
Clark County
Florence County
Forest County
Green Bay City In Brown County
Iron County
Janesville City In Rock County
Juneau County
Kenosha City In Kenosha County
Langlade County
Manitowoc City In Manitowoc County
Marinette County
Marquette County
Menominee County
Milwaukee City In Milwaukee County
Oconto County
Polk County
Price County
Racine City In Racine County
Rusk County
Washburn County

Find the most current Labor Market Information at: WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI

Direct questions and comments to: **William Brockmiller, Labor Market Analyst**

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